

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage device in which a plurality of different ~~types~~sets of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses, via a telephone line, are stored;

a user information storage device;

an interactive voice response device configured to allow a user to customize audio guidance through an automatic voice response via the telephone line ~~and in order~~ to store the customized audio guidance in ~~a~~the user information storage device in advance for use in ~~all~~a subsequent dialogue with the user;

an information acquisition device configured to obtain a specific ~~type-set~~ of information from the off-vehicle information storage device based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response device that uses the customized audio guidance stored in the user information storage device; and

an information transmission device configured to transmit the specific ~~type-set~~ of information obtained by the information acquisition device to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim 1, wherein:

when providing audio guidance to prompt the user to specify a desired ~~type-set~~ of information, the interactive voice response device first provides audio guidance to prompt the user to specify whether or not the user wishes to receive the specific ~~type-set~~ of information.

4. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage device in which a plurality of different ~~types~~sets of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses, via a telephone line, are stored;

a user information storage device;

an interactive voice response device configured to engage in a dialogue with a user through an automatic voice response via a telephone line, to customize audio guidance and ~~to~~ store the customized audio guidance in a ~~the~~ user information storage device for use in all a subsequent dialogues ~~dialogue~~ with the user;

an information acquisition device configured to obtain a specific type ~~set~~ of information from the off-vehicle information storage device based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response device; and

an information transmission device configured to transmit the specific type ~~set~~ of information obtained by the information acquisition device to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses, wherein:

the interactive voice response device records information provided to the user in the past and customizes the audio guidance by using a type ~~set~~ of information most frequently provided to the user among different types ~~sets~~ of information previously provided to the user.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising;

a dialog contents storage device in which contents of a dialogue conducted between the user and the interactive voice response device when providing information to the user are stored, wherein:

the dialog contents stored in the dialogue contents storage device are indicated to the user.

7. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage means for storing a plurality of different types ~~sets~~ of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses via a telephone line;

a user information storage means;

an interactive voice response means for allowing a user to customize audio guidance through an automatic voice response via the telephone line and ~~for storing in order to store~~ the customized audio guidance in a ~~the~~ user information storage device in advance for use in all a subsequent dialogues ~~dialogue~~ with the user;

an information acquisition means for obtaining a specific ~~type-set~~ of information from the off-vehicle information storage means based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response means that uses the customized audio guidance stored in the user information storage device; and

an information transmission means for transmitting the specific ~~type-set~~ of information obtained by the information acquisition means to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses.

8. (Withdrawn) An information providing method for providing information to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses comprising:

verifying a user calling an information center, wherein the user is aboard a vehicle having the on-vehicle apparatuses;

providing an audio guidance that is edited in advance for each user via an interactive voice response apparatus installed at the information center;

determining information desired by the user based upon a dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response apparatus; and

transmitting the determined information to at least one of the on-vehicle apparatuses.